

IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS PRESS RELEASE

For release, April 7, 2004

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

Richard J. Leth, M.D., a 45 year-old physician from Des Moines, Iowa, had a Final Order issued by the Board following a hearing to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Leth was charged by the Board with habitual intoxication and the inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety due to the excessive use of alcohol and a mental condition. The Board concluded that Dr. Leth suffers from alcohol dependence and a depressive disorder which impair his ability to practice medicine in a safe manner. Under the terms of the Final Order, Dr. Leth's Iowa medical license is indefinitely suspended and the Board will not consider reinstatement of his license until he successfully completes substance abuse evaluation at a Board-approved program and the program indicates that Dr. Leth is safe to return to the practice of medicine.

David P. Knapp, M.D., a 52 year-old physician currently practicing in Milan, Illinois, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Knapp was charged by the Iowa Board based on disciplinary action taken by the medical boards of California and New York. Dr. Knapp's Iowa medical license is suspended for six months and placed on probation for five years under certain terms and conditions. Dr. Knapp was also issued a Citations and Warning for being disciplined by another regulatory authority and ordered to pay a \$7,500 civil penalty. Dr. Knapp must continue to comply the provisions established in the Settlement Agreement dated May 30, 2000. The previous restriction prohibiting Dr. Knapp's use of physician assistants remains permanent and the other previous restrictions have been modified to five years probation.